

weeks crossing from Ireland to Ellis Island. Many of the boats that sailed that route posted in their galleys a notice with the heading, "Advice to Irish Emigrants."

The posting included these words: "In America, a man's success must altogether rest with himself—it will depend on his industry, sobriety, diligence and virtue . . . and he may rationally expect to raise himself in the world by his labour."

People who met Jack Gillespie quickly realized that their friend or coworker or fellow soldier was extremely diligent, very industrious, generally virtuous and—most of the time sober. And he certainly wasn't afraid of labor.

His high school sweetheart Conny Carroll noticed something else about him—something other pretty lasses tended to notice too. He was a strikingly handsome man.

She wrote to him regularly during the war, and clipped newspaper articles on the progress of the 28th Infantry—the famed and feared "bloody buckets"—and kept the clips in a scrap book.

Sergeant John Patrick Gillespie fought for the cause of freedom. He fought for the honor of his country. And though he never fought for the sake of glory, at war's end he was draped in it.

After landing in France, his Company L was among the first to confront the hedgerows that made a patchwork of the French countryside. His commanding officers spent days hunkered down trying to figure out how to advance over the thick, eight-foot-high lines of brush that separated them from an enemy whose size and strength they had no way of knowing.

Eventually a frustrated, impatient Sergeant Gillespie carved toeholds into the knotted hedgerow and told his lieutenant to listen for him after he went over the top.

When this fearless soldier dropped to the ground on the other side, he began firing his weapon to find—nobody firing back. Sixty years later, when asked what he did to get his Bronze Star, he laughingly said, "Nothing, really."

Of course, it wasn't for nothing. Nor was his subsequent Silver Star for Valor in Combat, earned saving a wounded platoon mate, or the Purple Heart for the bullets that ripped through both his legs in the Hurtgen Forest.

He was a successful salesman and a savvy entrepreneur willing to take risks—but calculated ones. He said he never took a chance in business unless he assessed better-than-60 percent odds for success. And he won a lot more often than he lost.

He was an opinion leader in his community. Bobby Kennedy was once asked how his brother Jack won the Democratic nomination in 1960. He said that when other campaigns went in to organize a town, they'd ask, "Who's the Mayor?" or "Who's the county party chairman," or "who's the Chamber of Commerce President?" And we always asked, "Who's the man to see?"

For a long time in this community, Jack Gillespie was the man to see.

What he cared most about was his family—his wife and children.

He was a devoted husband. As a father, he was a disciplinarian who gave the greatest gift you can give your children: unconditional love.

And sage advice. If Jack Gillespie said "that's a good house," you should buy it. If he said "you can't trust that guy," you couldn't. If he said "you ought to marry that girl," you ought to.

Because of the guidance and advice he gave to me, I have been able to give guidance and advice to Congressmen, Senators, governors, Supreme Court Justices, prime ministers and, yes, the President of the United States of America.

Remarkable men and women, all. Yet I never felt intimidated in their presence.

You see, the most remarkable man I've ever known lies before us here today.

John Patrick Gillespie has left home again—on a journey to a new life in a wonderful place, where he will find happiness and achieve eternal glory. And waiting for him there, the woman he was meant to be one with.

Farewell, poor immigrant.

Farewell, successful businessman.

Farewell, brave soldier.

Farewell, loving husband, son, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend.

Farewell, Dad.

## HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND COULEE DAM

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the building of Grand Coulee Dam.

If you have ever visited Grand Coulee Dam you know just how impressive of a structure it is. It is the largest concrete structure in the United States with enough concrete to build a sidewalk around the world—twice. During the summer, you can learn the history of the Columbia River by watching a laser light show displayed on the dam.

Although Grand Coulee Dam initially helped us win World War II it continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and water to grow our food.

The Pacific Northwest serves as an example of good energy policy. You can't get any better than clean, renewable hydropower. As the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, I am working hard to tell the good news story about hydropower.

That is why I was so pleased to see the Today Show highlighting Grand Coulee Dam and the positive impact it has had in the Pacific Northwest and more specifically Spokane.

Hydroelectric dams across the West and especially in Washington State have provided us with an abundant supply of clean, affordable, and renewable energy. In fact, dams provide nearly two-thirds of our state's electricity. These dams have kept the Pacific Northwest's "carbon footprint" at half that of the rest of the Nation. Removal of the four lower Snake River dams would add 5.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere each year and it would take three nuclear, six coal-fired, or 14 gas fired power plants to replace their electricity generation.

At a time of growing energy demand, it makes no sense to throw this energy source away. I am committed, as we move forward with the debate on global climate change, and how to reduce our carbon emissions, that hydropower be recognized for the important role it has played in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition, the water provided from the Columbia Basin Project, supplies more than 500,000 acres of farmland and helps make Washington second only to California in the number of crops grown totaling more than 250 different commodities.

TRIBUTE TO PAT O'BRIEN, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues ELLEN TAUSCHER, BARBARA LEE, PETE STARK, and JERRY MCNERNEY in honoring Pat O'Brien for his many accomplishments and contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District, a world-class system of parks and trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pat O'Brien has provided remarkable leadership as the General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, and our congressional districts have been greatly enhanced by his two decades of service. On the 20th anniversary of his leadership there, it is our great privilege to pay tribute to his work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

His service to public parks and recreation in California began at the Southgate Recreation and Park District in the Sacramento area. Due to his innovative ideas and pioneering work at Southgate, he was hired as the East Bay Regional Park District's General Manager. Over the next 20 years, Pat has accomplished more than many could in a lifetime of service.

Under his leadership, the Park District has acquired over 32,000 acres of new parklands, and has added 17 parks and more than 100 miles of regional trails. The East Bay Regional Park District today includes 98,000 acres and 65 parks, a remarkable achievement in protecting and providing open space access to the citizens of one of the densely developed regions of the country. And while expanding to ensure that all of our communities are served, Pat O'Brien and the East Bay Regional Park District have built strong relationships throughout the region so that their important projects and initiatives have widespread support.

The East Bay Regional Park District during Pat O'Brien's tenure has been a wise steward not only over the parks, trails, and natural and cultural resources of the East Bay Area, but of the taxpayers' money as well. The Park District has brought in more than \$75 million in matching funds, and they have worked through ballot measures and assessment districts to provide stable funding for their good work.

Pat O'Brien's public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have his vision and his commitment in the East Bay. We have all benefitted by his leadership, and on behalf of all of our constituents, it is an honor to recognize Pat O'Brien on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.

## RECOGNIZING THE JERSEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Jersey City

Fire Department on receiving the U.S. Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

From their beginnings in 1829 through today, the Jersey City Fire Department's primary focus has been on protecting and supporting the community. This is readily apparent in how they treat their employees, particularly those who have chosen to serve in the U.S. military Reserves. Fire Captain Leonard DiStaso has been working for the department since 1997 in addition to serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. In the past 5 years, Captain DiStaso has been deployed to Iraq twice and both times the Jersey City Fire Department was there to support him and his family:

The Jersey City Fire Department went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that Captain DiStaso was able to keep in contact with his family, while the department made sure to take care of them at home. His coworkers at the fire department stayed in touch with his family and helped them with snow shoveling and other necessities. In addition, the Jersey City Fire Department also raised thousands of dollars to buy phone cards for him and his fellow Marines in Iraq, as well as for wounded Marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. In fact, they even gave Christmas gifts to the families of all the Marines in his unit.

I commend the Jersey City Fire Department for their commitment to the community and their employees. This group of dedicated individuals is exceedingly deserving of the Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which recognizes employers who provide exceptional support to employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve. This is the U.S. Government's highest recognition for efforts made in the civilian lives of America's citizen-servicemembers, which make up roughly half of the Nation's Armed Forces.

I am so proud to represent the men and women of the Jersey City Fire Department and hope every Member of Congress will join me in recognizing them for their outstanding commitment to the community.

#### HONORING MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL FOR TAKING PART IN NATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING CHALLENGE WEEK

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the young men and women from Mineola High School taking part in National Service Learning Challenge Week. For over 10 years, all 9th grade students from Mineola High School have taken part in an interdisciplinary project sponsored by the English and Living Environment curriculums.

On October 8th, under the supervision and guidance of their teachers and New York City Parks Department employees, students will visit Queens' Alley Pond Park as part of a tree planting and forest reclamation project. During their park visit, students will not only add to the beauty of the park by planting trees, but they will also learn of the park's vast history and ecosystem. In learning of the park's indig-

enous plants, students will come to understand the vast and complicated dynamics non-native plants can have on their environment.

The growing strength, interest, and funding for service programs in the area has enabled a wider range of students to participate. For the first time, Mineola's "Life Skills" students, who are developmentally and physically challenged, will be going to Alley Pond. Their experience will no doubt make the event more complete and fulfilling for all those involved.

As a conscientious citizen and ardent environmental advocate, I am proud to recognize the students of Mineola High School and commend events much like National Service Learning Challenge Week for broadening the education of our Nation's youth. Mineola High School, as a recipient of a Learn and Serve America K-12 Grant, is currently enjoying its 25th year participating in the Mineola Student Service Center and Service Learning Program. Mineola has, and continues to be, a nationwide model for exemplary volunteerism and service.

It is the continued strong will and selfless determination of the students of Mineola that make me proud to call the town my home, and I am immensely grateful to the men and women whose hard work make such great events happen. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for the extensive contributions to education these individuals have made through this program.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. ARNOLD ROMALDINI FOR BEING SE- LECTED AS PERSON OF THE YEAR

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Arnold Romaldini, who was chosen by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County to be their 2008 "Person of the Year" to be honored at their annual Columbus Day observance.

Born in the Hilldale section of Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Romaldini is a son of the late Sante and Elia Benzi Romaldini and a stepson of Ubaldo Mosca. He has two sisters, Thelma Stella and Adelia James. He also had two brothers, Carlo and Eugene, both of whom are deceased.

Mr. Romaldini had five children from his first marriage to the late Joan Urban, of Duryea, and seven grandchildren. He is currently married to Elena DeSimone of Naples, Italy, and has two stepchildren and several stepgrandchildren.

Mr. Romaldini attended public schools in Plains Township and graduated from Jenkins Township High School. He attended Wilkes College and graduated from the Kingston Vocational School, specializing in automotive technology. He worked at several local car dealerships before accepting a management position at an out of state business.

He subsequently went into business for himself with an associate and operated a multifaceted repair shop which he later built into

three automobile franchises as well as other business ventures. At the height of his business career, he employed approximately 50 people with a payroll in excess of \$1 million. He traveled extensively throughout North America and Europe attending auto industry seminars.

Still a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association and the American Imported Auto Dealers Association, he was area District Dealer representative for numerous automobile manufacturers. He is a long standing member of the New York Auto Dealers Association and was a founding member and chairman of the Nissan Advertising Association of New York. He has been retired since selling his business in 1996.

He is a proud and active member of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Romaldini. His determination to become a leading businessman has enriched the lives of all he has employed and all with whom he has been associated over many years. Moreover, his contributions to his family and his community has been extraordinary and an inspiration to all who know him.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the request I have detailed below (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on a project I requested and was included in H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology; Portland State University; University of Oregon; Worksystems, Inc. (a non-profit Workforce Development Board established by the 1998 Workforce Investment Act and recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor).

Address of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; Portland State University, 2121 SW Fourth Avenue, Unitus Building, 6th Floor, Portland, OR 97027; University of Oregon, Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, 1208 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; and Worksystems, Inc., 111 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1150, Portland, OR 97204.

Description of Project: The Northwest Manufacturing Initiative confirms that it will use this funding for supporting applied engineering and sustainable supply innovation and research, workforce training programs and outreach and training for youth and young adults in order to increase the Northwest region's supply of